

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 24, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (August 23, 2003 (2200))

A. Large Fires

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5
National Preparedness Level = 5*

Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

- 1. Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 33,252 acres, 12% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln, 666 personnel assigned.*
- 2. Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kearney) – 10,125 acres, 35% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview, 349 personnel assigned.*
- 3. East Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 20,500 acres, 30% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park, 720 personnel assigned.*
- 4. Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 2,874 acres, 35% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston, 468 personnel assigned.*
- 5. Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 1,496 acres, 2% contained, 10 miles S of Nye, 211 personnel assigned.*
- 6. Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) – 1,714 acres, 46% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart, 519 personnel assigned.*

Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:

- 1. Beta Lake/Doris Ridge – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 300 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles S of Hungry Horse, 336 personnel assigned.*
- 2. Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) – 41,600 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka, 388 personnel assigned.*
- 3. Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 642 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
- 4. Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 10,150 acres, 30% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius, 582 personnel assigned.*
- 5. High – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Weldon) - 120 acres, 0%*

- contained, 23 miles NE of Seeley Lake, 14 personnel assigned.*
- 6. *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 44,372 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls, 578 personnel assigned.*
- 7. *Trapper Creek Complex – 25,590 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell, 21 personnel assigned.*
- 8. *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath), 30,906 acre Fire complexes located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, 75 personnel assigned.*
- 9. *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 1,110 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SSE of Hungry Horse.*

Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

- 1. *Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 26,800 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula, 750 personnel assigned.*
- 2. *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 21,480 acres, 35% contained, 11 miles E of Florence, 853 personnel assigned.*
- 3. *Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 7,023 acres, 75% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula, 1061 personnel assigned.*
- 4. *Cherry Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 4,088 acres, 76% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls, 413 personnel assigned.*
- 5. *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 8,006 acres, 30% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis, 480 personnel assigned.*
- 6. *Mollman – 158 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan, 25 personnel assigned.*
- 7. *Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 4,050 acres, 90% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula, 748 personnel assigned.*
- 8. *Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 16,000 acres, 30% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula, 710 personnel assigned.*
- 9. *Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt) - 1,021 acres, 100% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula, 297 personnel assigned.*

Eastern Montana Zone MAC

- 1. *Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 30,000 acres, 100% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin, 430 personnel assigned.*
- 2. *Ball Creek – 180 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Bigfork, 31 personnel assigned.*
- 3. *Rathbone – 157 acres, 60% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone, 97 personnel assigned.*

B. Initial Attack *Light initial attack – 12 new fires 6,894 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA - UPDATED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
918 AM MDT SUN AUG 24 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Partly Cloudy. Isolated Afternoon Showers Or Thunderstorms Far South. Highs 75 To 85.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Evening Showers Or Thunderstorms Far South. Lows 41 To 51.

Monday - Mostly Sunny. Highs 77 To 87.

CENTRAL MONTANA*Rest Of Today - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.**Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The Upper 40s To Mid 50s.**Monday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 70s To Mid 80s.***SOUTHWEST MONTANA***Rest Of Today - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Upper 60s To Lower 80s.**Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The Lower 40s To Lower 50s.**Monday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Upper 60s To Lower 80s.***EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA - UPDATED***Today - Partly Cloudy. Highs From The Mid 80s North To The 90s South.**Tonight - Partly Cloudy. A Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms East And Far Southwest. Lows 55 To 65.**Monday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The 80s North 90s South.***III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:***The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**State and National Guard Assistance:**

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	51 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		4 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	

		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 SUV	
270 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	92 HVY Equipment	54 Airmen Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Northwest Area Command
Missoula Area Command
Central Command
Sweetgrass County

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures